

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3427

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 3204

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: MFA RENEWAL: CONTINUING EC DISCUSSIONS

REF (A) BONN 5662; (B) GENEVA 2104

1. IN PAST TWO WEEKS, COMMISSION AND MEMBER STATES WITH STRONGEST VIEWS (UK AND FRANCE ON ONE HAND, FRG ON THE OTHER) HAVE BEEN SEEKING MEANS TO ARRIVE AT A COMMON POSITION ON MFA RENEWAL WHICH CAN BE ENDORSED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS AT APRIL 5 COUNCIL. EVEN BEFORE GATT TEXTILE COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 16-17, ONLY OUTSTANDING ISSUE HAD BEEN CUMULATIVE EFFECT. TO DATE, FRANCE AND UK HAVE BEEN UNWILLING TO ACCEPT COMMISSION GUARANTEES THAT IT WILL MEET THEIR PROBLEMS ON ITEMS WITH A HIGH IMPORT PENETRATION THROUGH MORE CAREFULLY AND TIGHTLY NEGOTIATED BILATERAL AGREEMENTS.

2. PARA 2, REFTEL A INDICATES THAT FRENCH HAVE COME TO
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SPEAK ABOUT PROBLEM IN TERMS OF CUMULATIVE EFFECT INSTEAD OF GLOBALIZATION. IT ALSO STATES THAT FRG AND THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN CONSULTING BILATERALLY ON THE PROBLEM. FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT AND AFTER CONVERSATIONS WITH COMMISSION OFFICIALS AND MEMBER STATE SOURCES, IT APPEARS THAT AGREEMENT ON THE TERMS OF A COMMUNITY MANDATE MAY BE AT HAND. FOLLOWING WORKING GROUP SESSION ON MARCH 28, COMMISSION PREPARED AN ADDITIONAL PAPER WHICH WAS

CIRCULATED TO COREPER ON MARCH 30 AND WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE DISCUSSED ON APRIL 1. WE UNDERSTAND THA THIS PAPER IS AN ATTEMPT TO SET OUT IN CONCRETE TERMS HOW THE COMMISSION INTENDS TO IMPROVE ITS NEGOTIATIN OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, E.G., BY SETTING DEADLINES FOR COMPLETING AGREEMENTS WITH MAJOR EXPORTERS. PRELIMINARY REACTION OF UK DEL IS THAT COMMISSION PAPER REPRESENTS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. ONE COMMISSION SOURCE MENTIONED THAT IT WAS UNCLEAR WHETHER CHANGE IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WOULD STIFFEN ITS POSITION OR NOT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE SITUATION CLOSELY. HINTON

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Message Attributes

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